

DULLES DEFENDS INVASION TIMING

Castro's Growing Military Power Called Key Factor

Washington, Dec. 31 (AP)—This country's former intelligence chief indicated today that Fidel Castro's growing military strength set the timetable for last spring's abortive effort to overthrow the Cuban Prime Minister.

Allen W. Dulles, who retired recently as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said that any move against Castro, short of full-scale United States military intervention, had to be made between November, 1960, and April, 1961.

Dulles On Television

Appearing on a recorded radio and television program (NBC—Meet the Press) Dulles said:

"...I think the historians of the future will probably say that if any move was to be made to get rid of communism in Cuba, short of actual military intervention with all the power of the United States, that effort would probably have to have been made sometime between, say November and April."

Asked whether the April invasion was the last chance to overthrow Castro without direct United States intervention, Dulles replied:

"Well, I wouldn't go quite that far, but I would go well along the line. We knew...that the

Cuban pilots were being trained in Czechoslovakia. We knew they were going to have very shortly available under Cuban direction MIG's in considerable numbers and I am inclined to think, as I said before, that if a move was to be made short of intervention, probably this was the area of time when it had to be made. About November to April."

Failure Analyzed

Dulles denied that the failure of the invasion was an intelligence failure.

"There was no military hardware that appeared that was a surprise to us," he said. But he conceded that "some of the material was a little better handled than we expected."

"There is quite a popular misapprehension," Dulles continued, "that it was felt there would be a spontaneous uprising. We have never contemplated that..."